GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2179
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2004
ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD BANKS
Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no provision has been made in the budget for the establishment of food banks in starvaton prone areas in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a provision in the minimum food programme to establish such food banks; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to provide financial assistance in order to open such food banks in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) to (d) There is a provision of Rs. 32.50 crores for Central Sector Scheme of Establishment of Village Grain Banks in tribal areas for the year 2004-05. There is no provision of minimum food programme in the Ministry. However, the Ministry has been implementing the Village Gamin Bank scheme in 13 States such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra since 1996-97 with the objectives to take preventive measures against death of children in selected remote and backward tribal areas as identified by the Central Planning Committee (CPC). These areas are generally food scarce/starvation prone areas. Besides, implementing the scheme in identified areas, the States are free to implement the scheme wherever there is any threat to food scarcity. So far an amount of Rs. 20.50 crores has been released to the States to establish 4858 Village Grain Banks.